BONI PUERI · BONI PUERI

The Czech Boys Choir BONI PUERI

PREMIERE CANADIAN TOUR

October 26 - November 20, 2006

Tour concert programs to be selected from the following:

EUROPEAN CLASSICAL MUSIC

Gregorian Chant *(anonymous)*
PUERI HEBRAEORUM

Orlando di Lasso *(1532 – 1594)*
O LÁ! O CHE BON ECCHO

Dorian Mode *(anonymous), arr. Lara Hoggard*
PERSONENT HODIE *(Piae Cantiones, 1582)*

Gabriel Fauré *(1845 – 1924)*
LES DJINNS, Op. 9

Antonín Dvořák *(1841 – 1904), arr. Joel Blahnik*
GOIN' HOME *(Symphony No. 9 "From the New World", Op. 95 , Largo)*

Claude Debussy *(1862 – 1918)*
TROIS CHANSONS DE CHARLES D'ORLEANS *(selection)*

César Franck *(1822 – 1890)*
PANIS ANGELICUS, Op. 12 *(Messe Solennelle)*

Benjamin Britten *(1913 – 1976), arr. Julius Harrison*
A CEREMONY OF CAROLS *(selection)*

Georg Friedrich Händel *(1685 – 1759)*
HALLELUJAH *(Messiah)*

CZECH MUSIC & FOLKLORE

Marek Kopelent *(*1932)*
PRAŠTĚNÉ PÍSNIČKY *(Crazy Songs)*

Antonín Dvořák *(1841 – 1904), arr. Otmar Mácha*
KDYŽ MNE STARÁ MATKA *(Songs My Mother Taught Me)*

Bedřich Smetana *(1824 – 1884)*
PROČ BYCHOM SE NETĚŠILI *(Let Us Rejoice, Let's Be Merry)*

Bohuslav Martinů *(1890 – 1959)*
VYNÁŠENÍ SMRTI *(Parting with the Death)*

Czech folk songs, *arr. Zdeněk Lukáš, Josef Schreiber*
JEDE SEDLÁK *(The Farmer Is Going)*
Ó, LÁSKO *(Oh, Love)*

Moravian folk song, *arr. Oldřich Halma*
SVITAJ, BOŽE, SVITAJ *(Welcome Bright Dawn)*

Slovak folk songs, *arr. Eugen Suchoň*
BODAJ BY VÁS ČERTI VZALI *(Let the Devil Take You, Boys)*
AKÁ SI MI KRÁSNA *(How Beautiful You Are)*

Moravian folk poetry, *arr. Jan Vičar*
K HORÁM *(To the Mountains)*

AROUND THE WORLD WITH MUSIC

Canada
AH! SI MON MOINE VOULAIT DANSER *(arr. Donald Patriquin)*

Japan
佐倉 *(arr. Joshifumi Nakajima)*
こだわり *(arr. Taku Izumi)*

Russia
ПОДМОСКОВНЫЕ ВЕЧЕРА *(arr. Vasily Solovyev-Sedoy)*

Brazil
TREPA NO COQUEIRO *(arr. Pete Schmutte)*

Italy
FUNICULI, FUNICULA *(Luigi Denza)*

France
SUR LE PONT D`AVIGNON *(arr. Jaroslav Krček)*

Israel
יום זה לישראל *(arr. Naomi Shemer)*
הבה נגילה *(arr. Abraham Zevi Idelson)*

Africa
TSHOTSHOLOZA *(arr. Henry Leck)*
SIYAHAMBA *(arr. Anders Nyberg)*

North America
PRAISE HIS HOLY NAME! *(arr. Keith Hampton)*

SAN FRANCISCO - U.S.A. (MARCH 2004)

The concert starts with an old Gregorian chant ***Pueri Hebraeorum***, which dates back to Old Christian singing. The present form is an adaptation introduced by Pope Gregory I around 600.

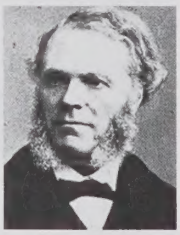
The composer Orlando di Lasso is one of the most famous representatives of the Renaissance. He became "maestro di capella" in Rome, which shows that he must have been highly talented. His composition ***O lá! O che bon eccho*** makes use of antiphonal choirs.

Personent hodie is contained in *Piae Cantiones ecclesiasticae et scholasticae veterum episcoporum* (devout ecclesiastical and scholastic songs of the old bishops), a Finnish collection of medieval Latin songs. The first edition consisting of 74 songs was published in 1582 in Greifswald (Sweden) and about half of the songs are believed to be of Finnish origin. Personent Hodie is notated in Dorian Mode and dates back to the 14th century. This Christmas hymn revisits the birth of Jesus and it is frequently associated with the Feast of the Holy Innocents, December 28, which commemorates the young boys slain by King Herod in his vain attempt to kill the baby Jesus. It is usually sung as a carol for men and boys.

Next to Smetana's "Vltava" (Moldau), the most famous melody in Czech music is without doubt the Largo, the second part of Antonín Dvořák's Symphony in E minor, "From the New World". It was composed during his stay in America in 1883. Although the symphony is originally a purely instrumental work, many attempts have been made to add text to this music. ***Goin' Home*** is by arranger, Joel Blahnik, with lyrics by Wm Arms Fisher.

Les Djinns belongs to the early works of Gabriel Fauré. He wrote this piece in 1875 and premiered it one year later. The music inspired by Schumann is truly following fantasia of remarkable lyrics by Victor Hugo.

The ***Trois chansons*** by Claude Debussy are from a 1908 collection, although two of the three works were written earlier. The works connect the styles of the past with the harmonic techniques of the time; the texts are by Charles d'Orléans, prince and poet, who was imprisoned in England after the Battle of Agincourt in 1415. The works are not thematically related. *Dieu! qu'il la fait* is a shimmering love song; in *Quant j'ai ouy* a languorous melody for soloist meanders above quick percussive-like vocal accompaniment, and the energetic *Yver* scolds winter for its cruelty.



Caesar Franck, one of the most popular French composers of the Romantic period, is very often called "a French Bach of the 19th century". He played the organ in St. Clothilde's Church in Paris for thirty years. The echo of this can be heard in his organ and spiritual compositions. The best-known sacred song from Franck's works is probably ***Panis angelicus***.

One of the most famous Christmas cycles ***A Ceremony of Carols*** by Benjamin Britten, a classic of 20th century music, was first conceived on board a large ocean liner, as the composer was returning from the USA to Britain in April 1942. The final version was completed one year later. The growing popularity of the work which, in an inventive way, draws on the English choral tradition led the publishers Boosey & Hawkes to ask the composer Julius Harrison to arrange the vocal parts for SATB chorus.

Georg Friedrich Händel wrote his extensive oratorio "The Messiah" in London in 1741. It took him only three weeks and was a brilliant success at the premiere in Dublin one year later. The ***Hallelujah Chorus*** is the most famous piece in this major work and needs no introduction.

During the concert Boni Pueri will take you to its homeland. Next to the Czech, Moravian or Slovak folksongs you will hear compositions written by famous Czech composers.

Marek Kopelent's ***Crazy Songs*** were composed on his own texts in 1967. Kopelent studied composition at the Prague Academy of Performing Arts (AMU). In his works, he draws on the principles of the second Viennese school and on the 1950s European avant-garde style.

Dvořák wrote ***Songs My Mother Taught Me*** in 1880 as the fourth of his Seven Gypsy Songs, which are set to poems by Adolf Heyduk in German. Heyduk's poetry conveys the romantic notion of gypsy life with an emphasis on the spontaneity of their love for music and song. Dvořák's musical treatment is warm and folk-influenced. It quickly became one of the most beloved and frequently played Dvořák tunes. The accompanying figures are filled with rolled chords while the main line is lyrical, ambiguously tragic, and indefinitely hopeful. The melody in 2/4 meter with the accompaniment in 6/8 creates a cross-rhythm.

Let Us Rejoice, Let's Be Merry is the introductory choral piece from the Czech opera The Bartered Bride by Bedřich Smetana. The first version of this opera was premiered in 1866, but in 1870 it was rearrange in the form we have known since.

Parting with the Death by Bohuslav Martinů is a part of the cycle Špalíček and describes an ancient Czech Easter custom: children cast Death - a straw effigy - into the water and greet the arrival of spring that is represented by the maypole. The title of the folk ballet Špalíček is untranslatable. In Czech culture, this word is associated particularly with the famous collection of folk poetry illustrated with pictures of the life in Czech villages in the past centuries.

Czech contemporary composer and musicologist Jan Vičar began composing popular songs at the age of fifteen. His compositional activities in the area of classical music deepened in the years 1976 through 1981 when he studied composition at Janáček's Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Brno as well as at Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Prague. Because of his use of popular idioms as well as elements of neoclassical and ethnic music, Vičar's work can be classified within the broad framework of today's musical post modernism. His cycle ***To the Mountains*** based on the Moravian folk poetry was written and dedicated to the Czech Boys Choir Boni Pueri in 2004.

The last part of the concert is titled "Around the World with Music". These compositions for boys choir come from Japan, Russia, Brazil, Italy, France, Israel, Africa and North America and remind us of previous Boni Pueri tours and evoke the exotica of these faraway countries.

The concert will end with the well-known gospel ***Praise His Holy Name!*** composed by Keith Hampton. He is an active conductor, organ soloist, and accompanist and is in constant demand as a workshop clinician. His arrangements of Spirituals and Gospel Songs are among the most popular pieces to be performed by choirs.

Lukáš Veselý
August 1, 1996
soprano

Josef Sedláček
April 15, 1996
soprano

Dominik Klapka
November 23, 1995
soprano

Lukáš
June 9
sopr

Jan Volák
August 28, 1993
soprano

Pavel Vavřinka
March 9, 1993
soprano

Radek Hantsch
February 25, 1992
soprano

Milan P
May 3
sop

Štěpán Klouček
April 14, 1993
alto

Václav Krejčí
April 26, 1992
alto

Jan Hřebíček
November 10, 1990
alto

Tomáš
July 2
al

Ondřej Červinka
October 8, 1987
tenor

Karel Kincl
April 15, 1985
tenor

Roman Ruffer
October 25, 1989
bass

Lukáš S
March
ba

Zavřel
1995
no

Daniel Svoboda
March 1, 1995
soprano

Pavel Musílek
November 12, 1994
soprano

Aleš Staněk
December 21, 1993
soprano

okorný
1991
no

David Rajs
April 30, 1995
alto

Tomáš Říčan
April 29, 1995
alto

Jiří Súkeník
July 16, 1994
alto

Hrbek
1990

Jan Ráb
June 22, 1990
tenor

Zdeněk Záboj
February 15, 1990
tenor

David Ruider
August 3, 1989
tenor

avíček
, 1989
s

Stanislav Lang
January 19, 1989
bass

Jonáš Macek
August 15, 1987
bass

Lukáš Přibyl
September 7, 1985
bass

BONI PUERI
CZECH BOYS CHOIR

The Czech Boys Choir BONI PUERI was founded in 1982. Since then it has become one of Europe's most notable musical bodies. The choir is a part of the newly opened Boni Pueri choir school under the patronage of the Czech Ministry of Education. It has 350 members and has given more than 2500 concerts all over Europe, America and Asia, made eight records of its own and taken part in 19 others (Supraphon, EMI, BMG, ArcoDiva etc.).

Boni Pueri performs with eminent artists, such as José Carreras. It makes recordings for TV and radio and performs with important ensembles and orchestras all over the world. It makes regular tours of the USA (Grace Cathedral San Francisco), Japan (Tokyo Bunka Kaikan Hall), South Korea (Seoul Arts Centre), Great Britain, the Netherlands (Concertgebouw Amsterdam, De Doelen Rotterdam), Denmark, France, and Italy (Basilica di S. Maria Maggiore Bergamo) etc.

The choir has appeared at many international music festivals (The Prague Spring Festival 1994, 1995, 1998, 2004 and 2005, Europalia - Brussels 1998, AmericaFest - Minneapolis 1998, 2002, Jeonju Sori Festival - South Korea 2002) and in July 2004 became the first ever European host to the World Festival of Singing for Men and Boys. Members of Boni Pueri appear also as soloists in other performances (W. A. Mozart: The Magic Flute - Teatro dell'Opera di Roma 2004).

The choir's important projects of recent years include double-choir performances of Bach's St Matt-hew Passion and of Requiems by Mozart and Fauré, a staging of Hans Krása's Terezín children's opera Brundibár and a premiere recording of music by the baroque composers Johann Caspar Ferdinand Fischer, Pavel Josef Vejvanovský and Jan Dismas Zelenka. In 2003 Boni Pueri's recording of Zelenka's Sub olea pacis et palma virtutis received the prestigious Cannes Classical Award.

Boni Pueri is a cultural ambassador of the “European Federation of Choirs of the Union".

www.bonipueri.org

CONDUCTOR

Jakub MARTINEC began his association with the Czech Boys Choir Boni Pueri as a chorister and soloist in 1991. In 1993 he was selected as the treble soloist for the Chichester Psalms by Leonard Berstein in the final concert of the famous Prague Spring Festival together with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of conductor Jiří Kout.

Between the years 1998 and 1999 he studied solo singing with Prof. Michael Kozelský at Ostrava University. In 1999 he continued his vocal training at the Music Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové with Prof. Jan Kyselák. At the same time he studied choral conducting with Pavel Horák. It was as Dr. Horák's assistant that he gained his first valuable experience as conductor of the boys choir.

Presently he is in his seventh year as the conductor of the Czech Boys Choir Boni Pueri. He performs regularly with the choir, recording CDs, DVDs and live recordings for TV and radio, as well as taking part in the choir's regular tours of North America and Europe.

Recently he conducted the choir at the opening of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra Choral Season at the Rudolfinum, Prague in October 2006. The program consisted of French choral repertoire including Faure's Requiem and other compositions by Debussy and Saint-Saëns.

TOUR STAFF

Jennifer BEYNON MARTINEC
vocal specialist

Martin FIŠL
pianist

Daniel SOBOTKA
tour-manager

ONTARIO

Sunday **October 29**	5:00pm	**Gatineau, ON**	Maison de Citoyen 25 rue Laurier
Sunday **October 29**	8:00pm	**Ottawa, ON**	St. Matthew's Anglican Church 130 Glebe Ave.
Monday **October 30**	7:30pm	**King City, ON**	Country Day School 13415 Dufferin St.
Wednesday **November 1**	7:30pm	**London, ON**	Colborne St. United Church 711 Colborne St.
Thursday **November 2**	7:00pm	**Belleville, ON**	Empire Theatre 321 Front St.
Friday **November 3**	7:30pm	**Bolton, ON**	Christ Church Anglican 22 Nancy St.
Saturday **November 4**	8:00pm	**Barrie, ON**	First Christian Reformed Church 33 Shirley Ave.
Monday **November 6**	7:30pm	**Toronto, ON**	Metropolitan United Church 56 Queen St. E.

ALBERTA

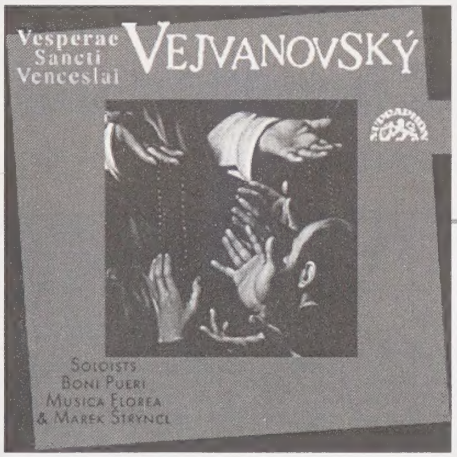
Thursday **November 9**	7:30pm	**Grande Prairie, AB**	Christian Fellowship Assembly 11449-92 St.
Saturday **November 11**	3:00pm	**Edmonton, AB**	Lendrum Mennonite Church 11210-59 Ave NW.
Sunday **November 12**	7:00pm	**Calgary, AB**	First Church of the Nazarene 65 Richard Way SW.
Tuesday **November 14**	8:00pm	**Edmonton, AB**	Fr. Winspear Centre for Music Sir Winston Churchill Square
Friday **November 17**	8:00pm	**Camrose, AB**	Faith and Life Chapel Augustana Faculty Campus
Saturday **November 18**	8:00pm	**Bonnyville, AB**	Lyle Victor Albert Centre 4714-49 St.

for actual schedule and ticket information visit:
www.bonipueri.org/canada2006

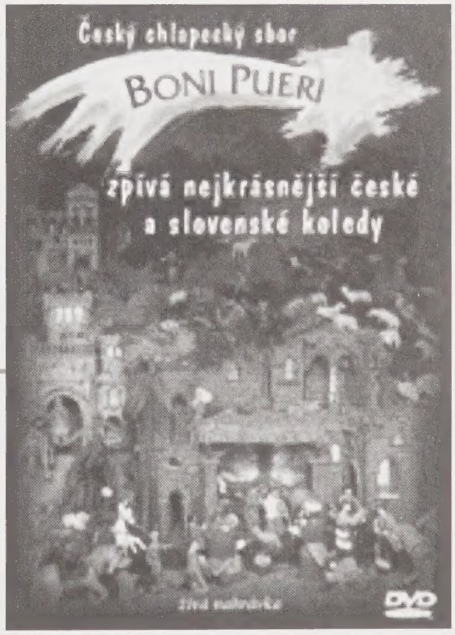
or contact us at:
canada@bonipueri.cz

Selections of the touring program, from classical music to songs from all over the World.

A showcase of European baroque polyphonic masterpieces by the Czech composerJan Dismas Zelenka.

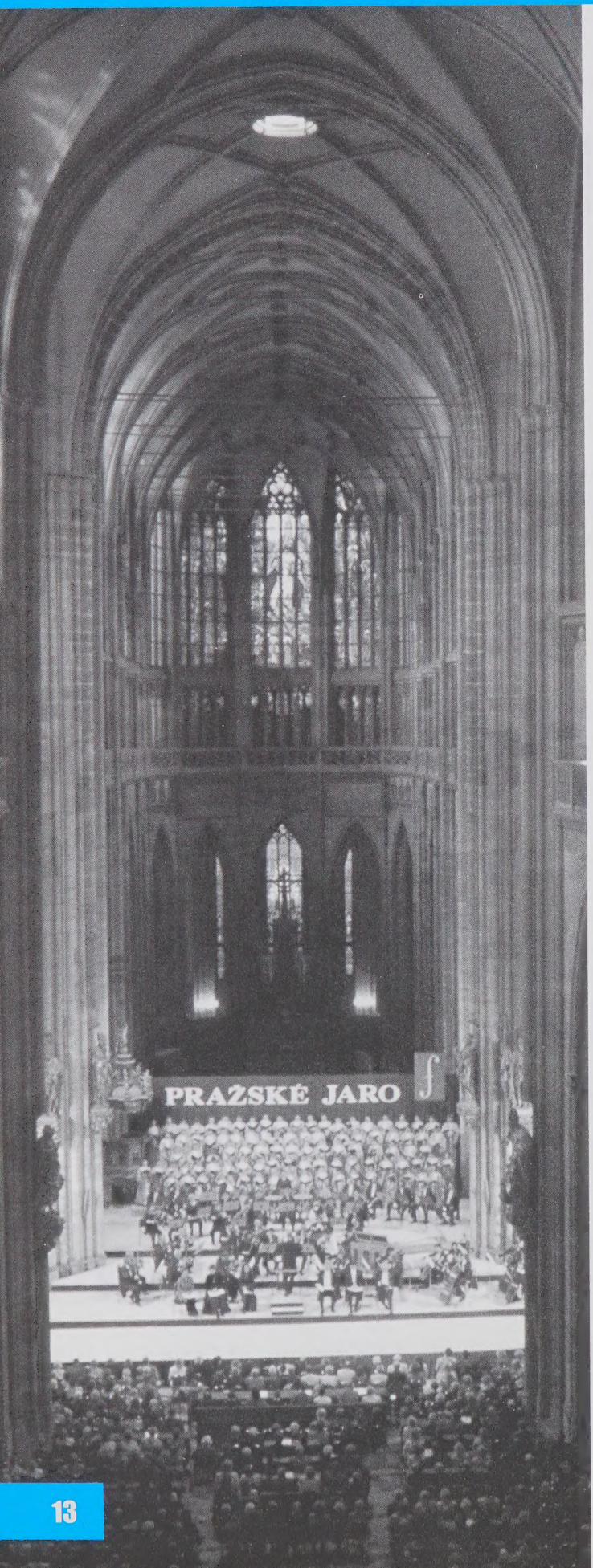


A CD of vespers by Czech baroque composer Pavel Josef Vejvanovský.



A live DVD recording of the most beautiful Czech, Moravian and Slovak Christmas Carols.

A CD featuring A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten as well as Old European Christmas Carols.



CONTACT US

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Web-site: www.bonipueri.org

Mark your calendars now for July, 2008 and be the guests of Boni Pueri in the Czech Republic!

Boni Pueri joins forces with the **Amabile Boys' & Men's Choirs** (London, Canada), **Chor Leoni** (British Columbia), the former **Alliance for Arts & Understanding,** and a team of world class conductors and composers to host its

2nd International Boys & Men's Choral Festival

in Hradec Králové and Prague, the Czech Republic

Rudolfinum, Prague

Hradec Králové

An outstanding opportunity for your boys' or men's choirs, or individuals to participate in rehearsals and concerts with world-renowned conductors and choirs, solo and massed concerts in the historic churches and theatres of Central Europe, including the famous **Dvorak Hall in the Rudolfinum, Prague**.

For further information, email **carolbeynon@amabile.com**
Look for details about the Festival on our website in Winter 2007
www.bonipueri.cz/festival

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